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## **President's Report: Dr. Michele Haney**

### **May 2017**

**Transform the student experience.**

- Please join the *Obscura* staff in the release of the Spring 2017 issue of *Obscura*. Pick up your copy of the magazine and participate in the celebratory Open Mic. Share your poetry, short story, comedy act or music.
- The Gateway Program held their Graduation in the Community Room in May.
- Medical Careers Club sponsored a workshop on breast and ovarian health at the Arvada campus on May 2<sup>nd</sup>.
- STUDENTS: Technical theater student Marie Welter has been nationally selected for a five-month internship by the Peninsula Players, America's oldest professional resident summer theater. In addition to receiving free room and board, Marie will also receive a weekly stipend, participate in several workshops, and work on many productions.
- Daniel Gomez received two awards from the Kennedy Center American College Festival for his innovative lighting designs. In addition, Daniel was offered a \$3,000 scholarship from the Department of Theatre Arts at Central Washington University, as well as an invitation to study Lighting Design in their BFA program.
- Wayne Breyer received an award from the Kennedy Center American College Festival in recognition of his outstanding work as a stage manager.
- ALUMNI: Madison Young is currently attending the Stella Adler Studio of Acting in Los Angeles. She was selected for admission into this program last year while representing RRCC at the regional Kennedy Center American College Theatre Festival, where she was an Irene Ryan Scholarship nominee.
- Marieke Bauer was just accepted for admission into the Tisch School of the Arts at New York University, where she will begin course work this fall.
- STAFF + INSTRUCTORS: Program Director David-Matthew Barnes received a 2017 Los Angeles Film Award and a screenwriting award in the 2017

Universe Multicultural Film Festival for his short screenplay *Tagged*. For his screenplay *Boxcar*, David-Matthew received the award for Best Short Screenplay at the 2017 New Renaissance Film Festival in Amsterdam. This year, his screenplays and teleplays have been official selections and nominees in the Los Angeles Television, Script and Film Festival, the Hollywood Screenplay Contest, the StoryMode Independent Short Film Awards, the Queer Hippo International LGBT Film Festival in Houston, the Shore Scripts Screenwriting Competition in London, and the Film Makers TV Writing Competition in Los Angeles. His screenplay, *Made From Scratch*, is one of sixteen scripts that were nationally chosen as official selections for this summer's Film Invasion L.A. (FILA).

- Earlier this year, DM's stage play *Somebody's Baby* received a two-week production at Ball State University. His new play, *Vixen*, will be performed for a four-week run at the Actor's Workout Studio in North Hollywood this fall. His new one-act play *Tagged* has been selected by the Towne Street Theatre (L.A.'s Premiere African American Theatre Company) for their Civil Discourse/Engagement series. The play will be presented this summer at the Stella Adler Theatre in Hollywood, followed by an in depth conversation with the audience. His one-act play *Just Before the Drop* was selected for inclusion in the new anthology *105 Five-Minute Plays for Study and Performance*, published by Smith & Kraus. He was a guest author at the 2017 Amelia Island Book Festival, where he taught two playwriting workshops at the local Boys & Girls Club. DM was recently interviewed by Performer Stuff about his stage plays, which includes a mention of his work at RRCC.
- Our Theatre Lab Coordinator/Instructor/Director (the wearer of many hats), Kelly Jo Eldredge, has been nationally selected to attend the 2017 Association for Theatre in Higher Education Conference (ATHE) this summer in Las Vegas, where she will be presenting on the topic "Spectacle on a Shoestring: Big Music Theatre on Small Production Budgets."
- Playwright Tami (Canaday) Reusink's full-length play, *Uncle Rooster*, will be performed at the Brick Theater's This is Not Normal Festival in Brooklyn, NY in June. Her two-minute play, *Don Meets Dan*, will be performed at the And Toto Too Play Crawl on starting out at the Oriental Theatre in Denver. Tami will begin teaching playwriting courses for us this Fall.
- After an intense two-day audition process through URTA (University Residency Theatre Association) in Chicago (for more than 40 graduate schools across the US and UK), Sean Dale has been accepted into the Graduate Program at the East 15 School of Acting in London. We will miss him very much and wish him lots of continued success.
- In the short time that Derick Gonzales Robles has been living in Los Angeles, he's already appeared on episodes of *Jane the Virgin*, *Love, Urban Myths*, *The Middle*, *Criminal Minds*, and in several indie films. He is currently

a student at Santa Monica College. About his time at RRCC, Derick says, "RRCC helped push us out of our comfort zones into exploring new worlds with character, and helping us grow as fearless people in the process. I am now living in LA and working constantly in television, films, and plays; the confidence and skills I needed to be able to make the leap were given to me by the great faculty at RRCC. They work relentlessly to help you achieve your goals and aren't afraid to take the extra time to help you succeed."

- Brianna Desmond, who is also living in Los Angeles now and working in the entertainment industry, had this to say about our program, "I believe the experiences, knowledge, connections, confidence, and happiness gained from RRCC is the primary reason I was able to go from high school drop-out to college graduate and live my dream in LA, making a full-time living off teaching, performing, and always learning ballroom and swing dancing."
- The IDEA Institute hosted inaugural IDEA Expo with showcased over 15 engineering projects to university and industry partners.
- Red Rocks Community College's Phi Theta Kappa honor society chapter, Alpha Kappa Sigma, was recognized at the International Convention in Nashville last month with three major awards. Chapter officers Natasha Albrecht, Deitra Sandy, and Sean Ross; and Advisor Carolyn Mattern were present at the 99th annual convention of the International Honor Society for two-year colleges. The chapter's awards included:
  - Distinguished College Project. for creating a series of student forums designed to allow students opportunities to discuss current topics in a safe, respectful environment. Topics presented by college faculty and community members ranged from Equity vs. Equality, Urban Farming, Neutrinos at the Edge of Earth, Immigration and Refugees to Political Geography and Potatoes on Mars.
  - Distinguished Honors in Action Project. Extensive research by chapter members on the question of sexual rights and responsibilities led to the creation of a Sexual Assault Awareness project. Activities included Bystander Training, awareness activities, lectures on healthy relationships and information on Title IX and its importance to students. Students also created informative videos that will be included in the college's on-line new student orientation.
  - Beta Alpha Continued Excellence Award. The Red Rocks Chapter was one of only 10 chapters, from among nearly 1,300 world-wide, to receive this award. A chapter must be named a Distinguished Chapter three years consecutively in order to be recognized.
  - Additionally, chapter member Torri Demos received the Distinguished Chapter Member award for her contributions to the chapter's projects and activities throughout the year.

- The RRCC Students showcased work created in the Visual Arts, Fine Woodworking and MGD Department May 13th.
- Barbra Sobhani had two student winners in the Colorado Space Grant Undergraduate Symposium. April Beal won the Best poster/demo and Christian Prathers was the Grand Prize Winner. This symposium was for two and four-year institutions in the state.
- RRSG celebrated the end of the year with an awards ceremony and presentations by student clubs on May 4th. Following the presentations, The Organic Gardening Club was named the Club of the Year for 2016-17.

**Transform our own workforce experience.**

- A team of three Red Rocks Community College Japanese language students won first place in the Colorado/Wyoming Japan Cup, an inter-college Japanese language and culture competition, last month at the University of Denver. RRCC competed against 11 other teams from Colorado universities. Red Rocks was the only community college participating.
- RRCC students - Matthew Arellano, Aaron Betterton and Matthew Palmeri - competed in Level 4, the most advanced category of the contest, which fosters appreciation and knowledge of Japanese language, current events, history, and culture while providing opportunities for inter-college camaraderie. RRCC Japanese Instructor Mariko Hacke, who accompanied her student team to the challenge said, "I am very proud of these students; they studied hard, taking great interest in Japanese language, culture, and society. They performed magnificently through this challenging intellectual competition.
- More than 100 teenagers who have overcome various forms of adversity were recognized by the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth (AWRSAY) at a ceremony in April at Wheat Ridge High School. Scholarship awards to Red Rocks Community College and recognition certificates were presented by the students' nominators and school principals. In addition, Congressman Ed Perlmutter has arranged to have the names of the youth printed in the Congressional Record. The program was narrated by Ron Sloan, retired Director of the Colorado Bureau of Investigation.
- Linda Yazdani attended the annual NAFSA conference and will be taking on the role of National Community College chair.
- The RRCC Leadership Academy meets four times during the school year. Academy participants are nominated by their supervisor as emerging leaders for their departments and divisions. The supervisor and employee attend the Academy as a team. These teams use the new strategies taught in the Academy sessions to develop capstone projects, referred to as Action Plans. These Action Plans are specific to the program and or quality improvement

goals of the teams' area/division/discipline. Documentation of the Action Plans outcomes created by the participants provide real-world case studies that can be incorporated into future Academy sessions. Our 2017 graduates – Kyle Whitecotton, Judy Luhman, Shavon Garcia, Sara Oviatt, Stephanie Powers, Jacqui Oakley and Pat Bonich.

- Ron Slinger won Arvada's Image Award and Joan Smith was acknowledged by the Denver Business Journal as one of the top 40 women in Energy.

**Create education without barriers through transformational partnerships.**

- The National Science Foundation announced that a team (John Sanchez, Bruno Salvatico, Isacc Kerley and Andrew Michealski) from Red Rocks Community College is one of 10 finalists in its nation-wide Community College Innovation Challenge (CCIC). The CCIC is a contest in which community college students are asked to propose innovative science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM)-based solutions to perplexing, real-world problems. The RRCC team's project is called Attackerspace Learning Environment-Security Technologies, a network that allows students to experience a holistic approach to cybersecurity and learn how to defend against real-time attacks in a small enterprise network.
- Kevin Forslund went to China with a group of Colorado CC presidents-establishing relationships for recruitment of Chinese students. 15 students graduated from the ESL program and are ready to commence college level courses. Students successfully completing our English program typically are very successful in the college level classes. 90% of all RRCC ESL graduates successfully complete ENG 121 with a grade of B or higher.
- National Award Recipient Deb Kulcsar (Challenge Course Facilitation, Wilderness Ethics, Outdoor Leadership classes) was honored this semester by receiving the distinguished award of "Facilitator of the Year" at the National Challenge Course Practitioners Symposium.
- RRCC received a \$194,000 investment from Community First Foundation to support the launch of the Nonprofit Pathway program designed in partnership with Community First Foundation. The 16-credit certificate program will: 1) prepare individuals to enter a career in the nonprofit sector, 2) provide additional training to experienced nonprofit professionals, and 3) increase diversity throughout the sector.
- The IDEA Institute hosted inaugural IDEA Expo with showcased over 15 engineering projects to university and industry partners.
- RRCC hosted the AWRSAY 7th Annual "Get it Done!" luncheon. The organization ensures that teenagers who otherwise might go unrecognized, yet have overcome adversity, receive public praise, educational and on-going opportunities to help them achieve their potential.

- Two internship students from Warren Tech Computer Science Program selected and students will complete 135 hours between RRCC and Jeffco Public Schools IT departments in 2017/2018.
- Seven Jefferson High School students participated in RRCC's commencement ceremony on Saturday, May 13. Students received the Early Childhood Entry Certificate through Concurrent Enrollment at Jefferson HS.
- Two Concurrent Enrollment students from Two Roads Charter/Jeffco Public Schools were awarded the Community Leaders Scholarship. Scholarship valued at \$8000 over a two-year period

**Redefine our value proposition through accessibility, affordability, quality, accountability, resource development, and operational excellence.**

- Red Rocks Medical Imaging class of 2016 held their graduation pinning ceremony on at the Arvada Campus.
- Cathy Rock, Mark Bana and crew received a Leedv3 NC Gold Certification for the Arvada Campus.
- Dean Mike Coste was had his poetry "Opening Day in Denver" published in the most recent Burningword Literary Journal.
- According to Liz Cox, Director of the IDEA Institute, her department's grant of \$99,500 will further the IDEA Institute's mission of launching problem-solvers of the future by expanding interdisciplinary, project-based learning through authentic experiences and industry/community connections. IDEA Lab projects encourage both faculty and students to engage in design-thinking, hands-on STEM, and purposeful experiences while creating an ecosystem of collaboration and makerspaces to support innovative learning. The project funded by the grant will also create connections to career pathways by developing an Innovation Advisory Board and badges or other evidence-based learning that demonstrate 21st century and professional skills.
- "This is a tremendous opportunity for Red Rocks Community College to play a leading role in preparing students for the future of work," says Cox. In addition, RRCC, Community College of Denver, and Colorado Community Colleges Online were awarded \$93,500 for their "WeBWorK Pilot" - a free, open source online assessment platform for mathematics and science that provides instant feedback for students and flexibility for the instructor to create customized questions and instructional resources. RRCC's project lead/math faculty Brenda Forland was recognized with a Wartgow award last year for her work on this pilot project. "Our team plans to integrate WeBWorK into the college algebra curriculum by creating new content on the platform, specifically tailored to the students of the Colorado Community College System, making courses more effective and less expensive in the process," said Forland. "The three campuses will be piloting content in courses during

the 2017/2018 academic year, integrating WeBWorK into our online learning system, with hopes to expand use of the platform to all of CCCS the following year. All content created will also be put in the Open Problem Library of WeBWorK, sharing the content with math instructors and students around the globe.”

- Two Red Rocks Community College programs were selected for funding by the Colorado Community College System’s Innovation Challenge Awards. The 2017-2018 Innovation Grants will build programming for RRCC’s IDEA Institute and WeBWorK Math Instruction.
- Twenty Red Rocks Community College students competed in RRCC’s 26th Annual Speech Competition. This dynamic persuasive speech competition, sponsored by the Communication program and Student Government, allowed students to showcase their speaking skills. The first place winner, Sydney White, with her speech, “Sleep,” represented RRCC on May 5 at the Denver Metro Community College Speech Competition at Arapahoe Community College. The competition included students from all five metro area community colleges. Sydney winning speech was about Sleep Hygiene, an idea that promotes a healthier lifestyle by creating a routine to get more quality sleep.
- The RRCC Foundation awarded \$16,000 for 2017/2018 to faculty and staff through mini-grants. The funding will support professional development for faculty teaching in healthcare, science, and math as well as student engagement initiatives across the college.

#### **Other News:**

- Red Rocks Community College (RRCC) celebrated the achievements of students and faculty at their 47th annual commencement ceremony on Saturday, May 13. Over 2,500 degrees and certificates were awarded to graduates from summer 2016, fall 2016 and spring 2017. RRCC granted Associate of Science, Associate of Arts, Associate of Applied Science, and Associate of General Studies degrees, plus certificates in dozens of fields at the ceremony which took place at the University of Denver.
- TRIO SSS held their Annual End-of-the-Year celebration.
- Outstanding Faculty of the Year (selected by faculty): Toni Nicholas, History Department; Full-Time Instructor of the Year (selected by students): Dr. Keith Swain, Psychology Department; Part-Time Instructor of the Year (selected by students): Jeremy Beard, EGT Department; Outstanding Graduates (selected by staff): Marika Fama and Lindsay Meyers.